



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 17 2002

Mr. Edward H. Murphy  
American Petroleum Institute  
1220 L Street, Northwest  
Washington, DC 20005-4070

OFFICE OF  
ENFORCEMENT AND  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Dear Mr. Murphy:

This letter is in response to your April 25, 2002, letter requesting that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) exercise its enforcement discretion to allow refiners and independent labs to use the recently updated American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D 1319-02 test method.

Under the current EPA motor vehicle fuels regulations, ASTM test method D 1319 is the designated test method for measuring olefins in gasoline and aromatics in diesel fuel, and is also allowed as an alternative method of measuring aromatics in gasoline. Since these rules were adopted at different points in time, the regulations currently cite three different versions of the D 1319 test method (published in 3 different years) for each of these applications.

In your letter, you state that EPA's current designation of three different versions of the ASTM D 1319 test method has caused considerable problems for refineries and independent labs. In order to allow for more consistent use of the same methodology across EPA motor vehicle regulations, EPA intends to issue a direct final/proposed rule in the near future to update this ASTM method to the most recent 2002 version.

Pending the completion of this rulemaking, EPA will exercise its enforcement discretion to allow the use of ASTM D 1319-02 as the designated method for measuring olefins in gasoline and aromatics in diesel fuel, and as an alternative method of measuring aromatics in gasoline. This exercise of enforcement discretion is effective immediately and will continue until the date that the rule changes described above become effective, or until December 31, 2003, whichever is earlier.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, you may call Erv Pickell, Fuels Team Leader, at (303) 236-9506.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Peter Suarez".

John Peter Suarez  
Assistant Administrator

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